



BrightonSM

POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Prevent Crime and Disorder"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Keeping your pet safe in warm weather

As temperatures rise and the thermometer consistently reaches into the 80's and 90's, Brighton Animal Control officers would like pet owners to remember to keep pets safe in the car, particularly if it involves leaving your pet in a parked vehicle for any length of time.

Even at outside temperatures as low as 70 degrees, the temperature inside a closed car can easily climb as much as 20-30 degrees within minutes, hot enough to cause serious harm to man's best friend. Because dogs don't perspire, instead eliminating excess heat by panting, being trapped in a vehicle with internal temperatures above 90 degrees can result in the dog becoming dehydrated, suffering from heat stroke, or dying of heat exposure.

If you do decide to take your pets along for the ride, Brighton Animal Control officers recommend taking the following precautions to keep them safe from the heat:

- If possible, have someone stay with the car and leave the air conditioner running
- Park the vehicle where it is entirely covered by shade
- Park with the front windshield or any sloping windows facing away from the sun – the angle of these windows increases the amount of heat they generate
- Place a sun visor in any window facing the sun
- Leave all windows open at least 4 inches
- Leave fresh water available for the animal at all times

Because of the danger being left in a hot car presents to our furry friends, Brighton Animal Control officers may issue a summons for Animal Cruelty/Neglect to pet owners who unsafely leave animals in closed vehicles when the outside temperature is above 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

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